



Montbretia (*Crocosmia pottsii*)

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A cousin of Gladiolus, it is a showy and exotic looking plant; *Crocosmia* is a genus in the iridaceae family from South Africa. The plant is noted for sword-shaped, medium-green leaves and yellow to deep orange to red tubular flowers. Blossoms give way to seedpods which attract birds. When cut, it may last up to two weeks in a vase. This genus name comes from the Greek words 'krokos' meaning saffron and 'osme' meaning a smell, associated with the smell when dried flowers are steeped in warm water.

Type	Cormous perennial
Hardiness Zone	5 - 9; if planted in zone 4, it should be near the south side of a protected location and 'lifted' in the fall for storage
Sun	Full sun to part shade
Bloom Time	July through August
Height	1.5' - 4'
Spread	1' - 1.5'
Tolerance	Drought, heat and humidity tolerant
Attracts	Birds, butterflies and hummingbirds
Additional Features	Deer and rabbit resistant

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: well drained
- Soil pH: slightly acidic
- Type: humus rich soil, do not plant in clay or soggy soil
- Placement considerations: a focal point in garden beds; excellent border plants; in containers with large drainage holes; good for pollinator gardens

Planting Recommendations

- Type: corm; bulb
- When to plant: spring, after last frost
- Depth of planting: 2-3 inches deep with pointed end facing up
- Spacing: 8 - 10" apart
- Spread: plant multiplies enthusiastically developing cormlets along its roots



- Division/transplant tips: After lifting in the fall, break the cormlets off for future use. Store them with the main corm in cool location for planting the next spring.

Maintenance

- Watering: weekly, keeping soil evenly moist
- Fertilization: After planting in spring, feed with a slow-release fertilizer formulated for bulbs and tubers.
- Pinching/deadheading: After blooming, flowers will fall off revealing attractive seedpods.
- Annual maintenance: Once leaves die, cut back foliage to an inch or two above ground. Lift after frost, store in a cool, dry location over winter.

Common Problems

Insects: susceptible to spider mites

Resources

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>

Questions or problems: “What’s wrong with my plant” for information on garden pests and diseases:

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

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